

May 2019 Council of Elders Summary

Brenda Veltman shared a devotion on Acts 1-2.

Thornapple's delegates (Michelle & Simon Bennett, Diane & Jim VanderWall) to the Great Lakes Conference annual meeting in April reported back to the elders. They talked about highlights of the experience:

- Bias that we can carry with us without knowing it
- Giving attention to the first impression someone has of the church (property, bulletin, volunteers)
- Youth and mental health
- Worship & preaching
- Ethnic diversity of the Covenant
- Church planting
- Story of a new church in Muskegon receiving the gift of land and a building from a CRC church that closed

Minister to Students Cory Hendrickson gave an update on the high school ministry and programming schedule change for the fall.

Treasurer Marc Kole presented a summary of his report:

- Total unrestricted gifts ("general or operating fund") for April 2019 is approximately \$97,100, or \$8,000 below budgeted levels, and \$26,000 less than 2018. April has historically been one of the higher months for receipts. Total unrestricted giving for the first four months of 2019 is \$429,000, or \$25,000 above budget and \$23,000 greater than what was realized in 2018. As you recall, total unrestricted giving for the first three months of 2018 was very low.
- Operating expenses for the first four months of the year totaled \$417,000, or \$11,700 less than budget, with most spend categories having a positive variance for the period. Student Ministry spend is over budget due to the summer trips deposits. With anticipated payments from students and families still to be received, and the eventual transfer of funds that are currently held as restricted, this spend line item is expected to be in line with budget by the end of the year.
- Cash available for operating purposes stands at \$219,000 as of April 30, a decrease of \$44,000 since the end of March, and an increase of \$38,500 from the end of 2018, due to the strong financial results for the first quarter and the collection of gifts receivable which had been outstanding at the end of December. Cash available for operating purposes was \$158,000 as of April 30, 2018.
- Gifts restricted for the building project totaled \$46,800 for the month, and almost \$3,400,000 campaign-to-date. Costs related to the building project were approx. \$1,210,000 during January through April, with total costs of the project of approx. \$4,260,000. Total building project cash is \$76,300 as of April 30, which does not include \$47,500 held at NCP. The construction loan has a balance of \$609,000 as of month end.
- Attendance during April averaged 585 per Sunday, an increase of 2.6% from January - March (570 avg.), a decrease of 4% from April 2018 (607), and a decrease of 26% from April 2017 (785). Easter Sunday has been in April during each of these years. Giving Units for the first four months of 2019 declined 2% from January - April 2018, and 11% from the first four months of 2017. Amount contributed per Giving Unit has increased over 7% from the first four months of 2018.

Josh Schwannecke presented a recommendation for addressing the parking lot on behalf of a small work group developed after the April meeting. After discussion, a plan for redoing large sections of the parking lot was approved. Communication with the congregation is coming in the near future.